

MEMORANDUM


TO: Lori Mathieu, Public Health Services Manager, DWS  
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FROM: Patricia Bisacky, Environmental Analyst 2 *pb*

DATE: 8/19/10

DPH PROJECT #: 2010-0230

SUBJECT: DEP Draft General Permit to Discharge from Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems Serving Existing Facilities



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The Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section (DWS) Source Water Protection Unit (SWP) has reviewed the DEP Draft General Permit to Discharge from Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems Serving Existing Facilities. Three sections which impact DWS programs have been identified for revision recommendations.

Section 4(d)(4) "Where to file Registration" currently reads as:

*"If the proposed activity or zone of influence is within any part of an aquifer protection area or a public drinking water source water area, or if the proposed activity is on land owned by an owner or operator of a public water supply, a duplicate or certified copy of the registration filed with the department shall be filed with the Department of Public Health at the following address:"*

A specific reference the statutory definition of aquifer protection area should be inserted to identify the reporting areas as regulated public water supply areas. After discussions with DEP staff, it was determined that their interpretation of "public drinking water source water area" is not what is identified in the Source Water Assessment Reports produced by the DPH and available on the web, but the sanitary radius of a public drinking water supply well as established in RCSA Section 19-13-B51d; therefore, the reference to source water areas should be stricken. A reference to public water supply watersheds should be included because when source water area is deleted, public water supply watershed is no longer implied. In addition, work that may be conducted in preparing a Technical Plan or implementing a Wastewater Management Plan that occurs on Class I or II water company land may require a permit from the Commissioner of the DPH in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 25-32. Therefore, it would be prudent to provide a means to identify this potential during the initial Registration process.

The following suggestions shown in bold type are intended to provide clarity to Registrants and to provide the DWS a means to evaluate (1) whether a public water system may be subject to the provisions of the Ground Water Rule and (2) that any proposed work as a result of the Registration requirements will be conducted in a manner which is protective of public drinking water sources of supply. Since revisions to RCSA 19-13-B51d are currently being contemplated, two wording options have been provided to define the public water supply well sanitary radius. Please note that the definition for public water system from RCSA 19-13-B102 was used in this suggested edit rather than the water company definition from CGS 25-32(a) because 25-32(a) includes systems that supply water to two or more consumers. Reference to CGS 25-32(a) may cause unnecessary confusion among non-public systems and would capture a universe of water systems which DWS has historically not regulated under the water company land statutes.

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(NEW) Section 4(d)(4) *“If the proposed activity or zone of influence is within any part of an aquifer protection area as defined in CGS Section 22a-354h, a public drinking water supply watershed or a public drinking water supply well separating distance to a system for the disposal of sewage as defined in the Regulations of CT State Agencies Section 19-13-B51d [OR most current update of the Public Health Code] ~~source water area~~, or if the proposed activity is on land owned by a public water system as defined in RCSA Section 19-13-B102(a)(65) or on land on which a public water supply is located, ~~an owner or operator of a public water supply~~, a duplicate or certified copy of the registration filed with the department shall be filed with the Department of Public Health at the following address:”*

Section 5(a)2(D)(2) For systems with design flows  $\geq 2,000$  GPD states:

*“Minimum horizontal separating distance shall be the distance required to provide 21 days time of travel to any sensitive receptor as determined by calculating the groundwater velocity.”*

Two concerns with this Section are that sensitive receptor is not defined and the 21-day travel time distance may be less than the separating distances prescribed in RCSA Section 19-13-B51d. The following suggestion may clarify this section:

(NEW) 5(a)(2)(d)(2) *Minimum horizontal separating distance shall be the distance required to provide 21 days time of travel to any sensitive receptor as determined by calculating the groundwater velocity. If the sensitive receptor is a public drinking water supply well, the minimum horizontal separating distance shall not be less than the separating distance to a system for the disposal of sewage as defined in RCSA Section 19-13-B51d [OR most current update of the Public Health Code].*

Section 5(a)(3)(D) Groundwater Monitoring states:

- If required under an approved Technical Plan or Wastewater Management Plan, groundwater monitoring wells shall be sampled for the parameters in Table 1 of this general permit. Monitoring requirements shall be included in the Public Offering Statement, Condominium Bylaws, and the rules and regulations adopted thereto*

The Table 1 parameters include those parameters generally expected to be contained in domestic wastewater. It is requested that all permittees that are also a public water system be required to monitor for Table 1 parameters. In addition, numerous public water systems that may also be permittees have water treatment facilities that discharge to the subsurface sewage disposal systems. It is a concern that these water treatment wastewater discharges may be removing contaminants from the drinking water supply only to be discharged back to the source water recharge area. The following suggested edit follows the current format of the General Permit for Discharge of Water Treatment Plant Wastewater:

(NEW BULLET ADDED) 5(a)(3)(D):

- A public water system as defined in RCSA Section 19-13-B102(a)(65) is required to develop a groundwater monitoring plan which includes monitoring for the parameters in Table 1. Additional monitoring will be required for those substances including, but not limited to: inorganic chemicals, pesticides, organic chemicals which**

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**have been detected in the drinking water supply within the last twelve month period as a result of sampling required under RCSA Section 19-13-B102 as amended.**

Finally, there appears to be no provision to submit Registrations electronically. The DWS would prefer to receive these registrations electronically with an option to request paper copies if deemed necessary.